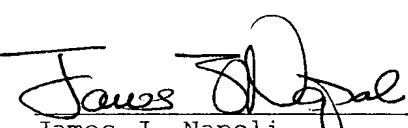




PATENT--NO FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:) I hereby certify that this
MARIO SPATAFORA) paper is being deposited
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Examiner: Unassigned) Commissioner for Patents
) P.O. Box 1450
) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
) Dated: January 13, 2004
)
) 
) James J. Napoli
) Registration No. 32,361
) Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicant hereby brings to the examiner's attention patents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicant encloses a completed Form PTO-1449 listing the possibly pertinent patents and a copy of each non-U.S. patent.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R.

§1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

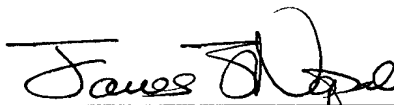
The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the convenience of the examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By



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Chicago, Illinois
January 14, 2004

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.